

3. DEA Number

Every physician assistant who is authorized by a supervising physician to issue drug orders for controlled substances must register with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Telephone numbers for DEA offices are as follows:

San Francisco Field Division

888-304-3251

Los Angeles Field Division

888-415-9822 or 213-621-6960

San Diego Field Division

858-616-4542

Website:

www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov

4. Physician Supervision

A supervising physician and surgeon who delegates authority to issue drug orders to a physician assistant may limit this authority by specifying the manner in which the physician assistant may issue the drug order.

Protocol and Formulary

Each supervising physician and surgeon who delegates the authority to a physician assistant to issue a drug order shall first prepare and adopt a written, practice specific, formulary and protocols that specify all criteria for use of a particular drug or device, and any contraindications for this selection. The drugs listed shall constitute the formulary and shall include only drugs that are appropriate for use in the type of practice engaged in by the supervising physician and surgeon. (Protocols adopted by the supervising physician and surgeon may incorporate by reference specific portions of particular editions of texts, and other sources.)

Medical Record

The medical record of any patient cared for by a PA for whom the supervising physician's Schedule II drug order has been issued or carried out must be reviewed, countersigned, and dated by a supervising physician and surgeon within seven days.

5. Prepackaged Medications

A physician assistant acting at the direction of a supervising physician may hand to a patient of the supervising physician a properly labeled prescription drug prepackaged by a physician, a manufacturer as defined in the Pharmacy Law, or a pharmacist.

6. Relating to Pharmacists

California Pharmacy Law, in part, now authorizes a licensed pharmacist to dispense drugs or devices upon receipt of a written drug order signed by a PA. A drug order issued by a PA for a controlled drug must now contain the physician assistant's DEA number.

7. Triplicate Scripts Replaced

Triplicate prescription forms required to issue drug orders for Schedule II medications are being replaced by tamper-resistant prescription pads. The tamper-resistant prescription pads are available from private printing companies that have been approved by the Board of Pharmacy and the Department of Justice.

Effective January 1, 2005, triplicate prescription forms are no longer valid. All written controlled substance drug orders must be on the new tamper-resistant prescription forms. Oral and fax orders for Schedules III-V are still permitted.

For further information on this topic, contact the Board of Pharmacy at (916) 324-2302 or their website at www.pharmacy.ca.gov.

Note: This document does not purport to be an exhaustive analysis of laws relating to drug orders. This is not a declaratory opinion of the Physician Assistant Committee (PAC).